

Political Tidbits

Air Force One Looted on Last Clinton Trip

The super-deluxe 747 that had been Air Force One only hours before the Clintons commandeered it for their flight home to Chappaqua, N.Y., was "stripped bare" by the time it landed, an Air Force steward told the Washington Times Thursday.

At the direction of President Bush, stewards saw to it that the Clintons' last flight would include all the amenities of presidential air travel. But after Bill, Hillary and Chelsea deplaned, reports the Times, porcelain china, silverware, salt and pepper shakers, blankets, pillow cases - anything bearing the presidential seal that wasn't nailed down - were missing.

News of the apparent first family looting of Air Force One comes on the heels of reports that Clinton-Gore aides literally trashed the White House hours before the Bushes moved in.

The damage, reports the New York Post, included "cut cables, phone lines and electric cords - plus a mess of rubbish" left in the Old Executive Office Building.

Obscene messages were left on White House answering machines, computer keyboards were destroyed, filing cabinets were glued shut and anti-Bush graffiti was scribbled in hallways, reported the Drudge Report.

In his Thursday morning press briefing, Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said the damage is being reviewed but declined to say whether an actual criminal investigation has begun.

Reprinted from NewMax.com

Pombo to be honored for area funding efforts

The San Joaquin Council of Governments Board of Directors on Thursday will honor Tracy Republican Rep. Richard Pombo for his support of more than \$9 million in funding for the region.

The projects include \$6 million for the Altamont Commuter Express; \$2.23 million toward the runway extension at Stockton Metropolitan Airport; \$921,000 for a San Joaquin A+ tutor mentoring program; and \$200,000 for welfare-to-work transportation.

The board Thursday also will discuss 2001 federal and state priority projects for the San Joaquin County region in preparation for a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C., in April.

The meeting starts at 5 p.m. in the Pacific State Bank building, 6 S. El Dorado St., Suite 400.

Reprinted from The Record

Florida ballot review shows 6-vote loss for Gore

Al Gore, who was looking to pick up as many as 600 votes in a recount of Florida's Miami-Dade County, actually would have lost six votes, according to a newspaper's examination of 10,600 previously uncounted ballots.

The Palm Beach Post reported Sunday that if all the dimples and hanging chads on those contested ballots had been included in the vote totals, President-elect Bush would have gained 251 votes and Gore would have gained 245. The newspaper said its review also showed that the vast majority of ballots rejected because there was no clear punch for any presidential candidate in fact contained no vote for president. Most of those no-vote ballots did have votes in other races.

In the Florida election dispute, Miami-Dade election officials abandoned their hand examination of ballots Nov. 22 after completing 140 of the county's 614 precincts. *The Post's* review of the undervotes is the first of several being conducted by news organizations.

Reprinted from the Palm Beach Post

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(202) 225-1947
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Today in History

1533 - England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife Anne Boleyn. Boleyn later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

1579 - The Treaty of Utrecht was signed marking the beginning of the Dutch Republic.

1915 - Alexander Graham Bell in New York spoke to his assistant in San Francisco, inaugurating the first transcontinental telephone service.

1917 - The U.S. purchased the Danish West Indies (now the Virgin Islands) for \$25 million.

1924 - The 1st Winter Olympic Games were inaugurated in Chamonix in the French Alps.

1961 - John F. Kennedy presented the first live presidential news conference from Washington, DC. The event was carried on radio and television.

1981 - The 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

1993 - A gunman shot and killed two CIA employees outside the agencies headquarters in Virginia. Mir Aimal Kansi, a Pakistani national, was later convicted of the shootings.

1995 - The defense gave its opening statement in the O.J. Simpson trial.

1999 - A Louisville, KY, man received the first hand transplant in the United States.

From The History of Today

Political Tidbits cont.

White House Romper Room

When Robert B. Reich abruptly resigned as labor secretary in 1996, he was mum, for the most part, about his working relationship with the Clinton White House. In recent weeks, however, as President Clinton bid his long adieu to the nation after a tumultuous two terms in office, Mr. Reich went on national television to describe the childlike atmosphere that existed at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue while he was a Cabinet member.

Mr. Reich said the young staff was so inexperienced and bad that whenever a White House aide dispatched him to an event he ordered his secretary to call the White House back and find out the age of the aide.

If the president's aide was 32 or younger - which Mr. Reich said often proved to be the case - he'd ignore the request.

Former presidential aide George Stephanopoulos also made it known that his one regret in serving in the Clinton White House was how many of his fellow staffers failed to treat the nation's highest office with the "respect" it deserved.

That said, it came as no surprise with this week's long-awaited changing of the guard that a juvenile prankster or two in the Clinton White House removed the "W" keys - President Bush's middle initial - from dozens of White House computer keyboards, destroying several in the process.

Reprinted from the Washington Times

Dems supported citizenship for Robert E. Lee

On April 10, 1975, Senators Kennedy, Biden, and Leahy joined in a unanimous vote in the Senate restoring full citizenship rights to Robert E. Lee. The bill recognized General Lee's "outstanding virtues of courage, patriotism, and selfless devotion." But that was then.

Last Week, Senators Kennedy, Biden, and Leahy grilled the attorney general-designee John Ashcroft on his views regarding the Confederacy. Referring to an interview he gave in Southern Partisan magazine, Biden, attacked Ashcroft for saying that unless "traditionalists" spoke out, Americans would continue to think that Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were "giving their lives, subscribing their sacred fortunes and their honor to some perverted agenda."

Reprinted from the National Review

By the Numbers

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Democrats held a 1,542 seat lead in the state bodies in 1990. As of last November that lead had shrunk to 288. That's a loss of over 1,200 state legislative seats, nearly all of them under Clinton. Across the US, the Democrats control only 65 more state senate seats than the Republicans.

Further, in 1992, the Democrats controlled 17 more state legislatures than the Republicans. After November, the Republicans control one more than the Democrats.

- GOP seats gained in House since Clinton became president: 48
- GOP seats gained in Senate since Clinton became president: 8
- GOP governorships gained since Clinton became president: 11
- GOP state legislative seats gained since Clinton took office: 1,254 as of 1998
- State legislatures taken over by GOP since Clinton became president: 9
- Dem officeholders who became Reps during Clinton's presidency: 439
- Rep officeholders who have become Dems since Clinton became president: 3

Reprinted from the NFRA

Weekly Quote

"Let me tell you about Florida politicians. I make them out of whole cloth, just like a tailor makes a suit. I get their name in the newspaper. I get them some publicity and get them on the ballot. Then after the election, we count the votes. And if they don't turn out right, we recount them. And recount them again. Until they do."

-- Edward G. Robinson, in the 1948 movie "Key Largo."

Wordsmith

van·dal·ism

Pronunciation: 'van-d^əl-
"i-zəm

Function: *noun*

Date: 1798

: willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property.

ju·ve·nile

Pronunciation: 'jü-v&-
"nɪl, -n^əl

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: French or Latin; French *juvénile*, from Latin *juvenilis*, from *juvenis* young person -- more at YOUNG

Date: 1625

1 a : physiologically immature or undeveloped : **YOUNG** **b** : derived from sources within the earth and coming to the surface for the first time -- used especially of water and gas

2 : of, relating to, characteristic of, or suitable for children or young people <*juvenile books*>

3 : reflecting psychological or intellectual immaturity : **CHILDISH**

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